relates to the difficulties experienced by developing countries in implementing the Uruguay Round of Agreements. These concerns which have come to be known as "Implementation Issues", fall broadly into three categories. The first category is the imbalances and asymmetries inherent in some of the Uruguay Round Agreements. The second category is the lack of sincere implementation of various provisions of the WTO agreements by the developed countries. The third category relates to the non-implementation of special and differential clauses contained in various agreements in favour of developing countries. As a result of these difficulties, the market access gains expected by developing countries from the Uruguay Round of Agreements have not materialized.

India alongwith some like minded group of countries had submitted proposals for the upfront redressal of the various "Implementation Related Concerns" of the developing countries without linking them to any fresh round of negotiations. India alongwith other like minded group of countries proposes to press for the Ministerial Conference at Doha to take all decisions as may be necessary for the resolution of the "Implementation Related Concerns" of the developing countries.

Special aid to fruit producing States

193. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and others rich in producing considerable amount of exportable fruits have protested to Central Government against the lifting of Quantitative Restrictions on fruit imports;

(b) if so, what facilities and special aid have been sought by these State Governments to help farmers growing and exporting fruit and fruit products to meet the world competition; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI **MURASOLI MARAN):** (a) There were some representations from

the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir for increasing the import duty and Bound Rate of duty on apples.

(b) State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have requested for providing assistance to the farmers of the State in improving the post harvest management practices and processing of horticultural produce such as apples and walnuts; for improving the infrastructure for storage facilities such as cold stores and refrigerated transportation for fresh fruits as also for assistance in marketing of the produce abroad.

(c) The basic duty on import of apples has been raised from 35% to 50% with effect from 5th April 2000. In order to improve the quality and promote exports of apples and Walnuts, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has initiated several steps which include the following.

A feasibility study to identify the export potential of horticultural products in J& K has been undertaken. A project for micro propagation of walnut to increase the production level has been initiated. To standardise the packaging of horticultural products to meet international standards, the Indian Institute of Packaging is in the process of developing packaging standards. Organisation of a buyer seller meet at Dhaka and Colombo in respect of apples and potatoes in November 2000, in which exporters from Jammu & Kashmir had participated. To improve quality of production of exportable horticultural products including fruits, intensive integrated training programme on apple in J&K and Himachal Pradesh States have been initiated through nominated technical coordinators. Financial support is also being provided to upgrade the testing facilities of the regional research laboratory in Jammu. An awareness programme on exports of horticultural products was conducted in J&K in July 2000 in which State Government organisations, growers and exporters had participated.